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UNITED STATES SENATE
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Statement by Senator J. W. Fulbright
Concerning Hearings on
Vietnam Policy Proposals

Mr. President: All Americans have reason to be gratified by President Nixon's actions to de-escalate the Vietnam war. After four years of constant buildup, the policy has been changed to a point where there are now more American boys coming home than are being sent over. But still replacements are being sent. Some 750 casualties are being inflicted on our troops each week, and the war is draining \$70 million a day out of the taxpayers' pockets. Although the public temper has, fortunately, subsided, a final end to the war does not seem to be any closer today than it was a year ago. Indeed, my fear is that the current policy will keep the United States bogged down in Vietnam -- with the killing and cost continuing -- indefinitely.

It will be recalled that the Committee on Foreign Relations had scheduled public hearings for the week of October 27 on a number of pending Vietnam policy proposals. Shortly after those hearings were announced, the President scheduled a speech on Vietnam policy for November 3. The Committee then announced that its hearings were being postponed, explaining that "As a matter of courtesy, it seemed proper for the Committee to defer its hearings until after the President had spoken."

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introduced in the Senate and there are now nine separate Vietnam policy measures pending before the Committee. The Committee cannot ignore them or pretend that the proposals have not been made. The introduction and consideration of these proposals is in keeping with the best traditions of our Constitutional system, which assigns to the Senate a special responsibility in the formulation of foreign policy. The Committee, following normal procedure, asked for the views of the Executive Branch on the proposals and, with the exception of Senator Mathias' resolution (S.J.RES. 166), the comments on them have been received and made public. The next step will be to hear testimony on the proposals from the sponsors and other interested Senators. These hearings are scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday of next week. In preparation for the hearings the Committee, in December, sent two staff members, James G. Lowenstein and Richard M. Moose, to South Vietnam to study the situation there. Their report will be released on Monday.

I hope that the hearings result in producing new policy initiatives which assist in bringing the bloody conflict in Vietnam to an end. The Executive Branch does not have a monopoly on ideas or judgment.

The hearings will be held on February 3 and 4, beginning at 10:00 A.M. each day, in the Caucus Room of the Old Senate Office Building. The witnesses scheduled for February 3 are Senators Goodell, Hughes, Eagleton, and Mathias. Senators scheduled to testify on the 4th are Scott, Dole, Hartke, McGovern and Young of Ohio. In addition, Senator Javits will testify on one of the two days.